

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A property-manager system comprising:

a persistence layer that stores a plurality of properties in a computer-readable storage medium, each property including a name-value pair used to maintain a value of a variable, wherein the persistence layer is maintained separately from an application program;

an application layer that offers services to the application program programs having a variable dependent on one of the plurality of properties, the services being offered through an application programming interface provided by the application layer, the services including:

providing the value of the variable in the application program when the application program is initialized; and

substantially immediately notifying the [[an]] application program having a variable dependent on a particular property when a notification of an update for a the particular property is received without the application program polling to determine whether the variable has been updated and without the application program being reinitialized, wherein the services further include receiving from the application program a list of property names of properties upon which one or more variables of the application program depends; and

an interface layer that accepts user input to update one of the plurality of properties stored by the persistence layer, wherein the interface layer notifies the application layer of the update for the particular property.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the application layer comprises:  
an application class, the application class including a property listener that receives the notification, the property listener including a list of property keys of interest to the application program.
3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the application layer maintains a lookup table that records, for each of a plurality of property keys, a list of property listeners that have registered with the application layer to listen for that property key.
4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the application class is an application class of a middleware application.
5. (Original) The system of claim 4 wherein the middleware application provides flow through from a plurality of ordering applications to at least one back-end application.
6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4 wherein the application layer is contained within a common project within the middleware application.
7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4 wherein the application layer is contained in a client JAVA Archive (JAR) file.
8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4 wherein the application layer is contained in a Dynamic Link Library (DLL) file.
9. (Canceled).

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein, the persistence layer stores a version number, a time stamp, an author name, and a description associated with at least one of the plurality of properties.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the interface layer displays a name, a value, and the information associated with at least one of the plurality of properties.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the interface layer accepts user input to update the value associated with a property.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the interface layer accepts user input to update the information associated with at least one of the plurality of properties.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the interface layer displays a time stamp associated with the at least one of the plurality of properties.

15.-21. (Canceled).

22. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having computer-readable program code executable by a computer system to:

accept into an interface layer of a property-manager system, user input to update a first property stored in a computer-readable storage medium, the first property including a name-value pair; and

notify an application layer of the property-manager system of the updated first property in response to accepting the user input, the application layer offering services to applications that have a variable dependent on the updated first property, the services being offered through an application programming interface provided by the application layer, the services including:

initializing the variable with the first property when the applications are first executed; and

substantially immediately notifying ~~the applications an application~~ having the ~~[[a]]~~ variable dependent on a particular property when an update for the particular property is received, wherein the services further include registering the applications, and receiving from each of the applications a list of property names upon which one or more variables of the application depends, and wherein the applications are notified without the applications polling to determine whether the update is received; and

~~notify the application having the variable dependent on the updated first property; wherein the notifying the application is performed by the application layer.~~

23-26. (Canceled).

27. (New) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable program code executable by a computer system to:

- maintain a persistence layer that maintains information associated with a plurality of properties, wherein a property includes a property key and a property value, wherein the property key corresponds to a variable used by one or more Web applications and the property value specifies a value of the variable, and wherein the persistence layer is separate from the one or more Web applications;

- provide a Web interface layer enabling modification of the information associated with each of the plurality of properties maintained in the persistence layer, wherein modification of the information includes one of:

  - add a new property and new information for the new property to the plurality of properties;

  - edit the information associated with one of the plurality of properties; and

  - delete one of the plurality of properties; and

- provide a property manager application layer separate from the one or more Web applications to service the one or more Web applications, the property manager application layer being configured to:

  - receive the property key from the one or more Web applications when the one or more Web applications are started and provide the property value associated with the property key, wherein the one or more Web applications initialize the value of the variable to the property value;

  - notify the one or more Web applications when the property value associated with the property key is updated, wherein the one or more Web applications dynamically update the value of the variable associated with the property key without restarting the one or more Web applications and without the one or more Web applications polling to inquire whether the property value associated with the property key has been updated.

28. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 27, wherein the property manager application layer maintains a property listener configured to determine when the property value associated with the property key has been updated and to communicate an updated property value for the property key to the one or more Web applications.

29. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the property listener is created when the one or more Web applications register with the property manager application layer to be notified when the property value has been updated.

30. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the property manager application layer maintains a lookup table that includes the property key for the property listener, wherein the property manager application layer notifies the property listener when the property value for the property key has been updated.

31. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 27, wherein the information further includes:

- a name of a user who one of created and modified the property; and
- a timestamp indicating when the property was one of created and modified.